

Ashe Chamber of Commerce

"Progress Through Action"



The Chamber Voice

Volume 1

Issue Nº. 6

P.O. Box 31, West Jefferson, NC 28964
Published Monthly for Chamber Members

"From the Director's Chair"

Timothy D. Carter

As many of you may know the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce held its Twenty Fourth annual meeting May 23, at Shatley Springs. Over 80 members turned out to show their interest in the Chamber and what it is doing in Ashe County. Marilyn Nason, publisher of the WNC Business Journal, gave the key note address. Marilyn stated that the Chamber of Commerce was "the best game in town" for influencing the future of Ashe County.

We at the Chamber agree with this statement. We are working hard to become the agent for orderly progress in Ashe. If you know of anyone who is interested in the progression of our county, why not encourage them to join the Chamber? I am confident that the Chamber of Commerce will be where it is happening in the future. Now is the time to become involved in one of the Chamber's committees and help us to become a greater organization than we currently are. The Chamber is preparing to make committee assignments for the coming year. If you are not currently serving on a Chamber committee, I urge you to become involved. Committee membership is the best way to realize your return on your membership invest-

ment. An individual can never accomplish as much as a group working together.

LANSING MERCHANT ASSOCIATION

The area merchants of Lansing formed a merchant's association at the beginning of this year in the hopes of improving the economic development of their town. On May 8, Tim Carter had the honor of speaking about the Chamber at their monthly meeting. In the days afterward EVERY MERCHANT APPROACHED JOINED THE CHAMBER. Thanks to Lansing's support the Chamber has four new members listed in this newsletter with four others to be included in the next. It is encouraging that so many businessmen are recognizing the value of belonging to the Chamber. A very special thanks goes to Carson Staley, President of the Lansing Merchant Association, who invited us to speak and helped organize our membership drive.

HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL

On Friday, June 2, the North Carolina House passed the 8.6 billion dollar highway funding package. This plan is especially important to us at the Chamber for two reasons. The first is

made crafts for sale. Call Kathy Shepherd at 384-4750 for some flowers or stop in and see for yourself the quality of her merchandise.

If you are feeling under the weather **THE WARRENSVILLE DRUG STORE** in the Warrensville Mini-Mall has the cure. Mack Powers co-owner and Pharmacist has a complete line of medicine to fill any patient's needs. Warrensville Drug also keeps a complete record of your prescriptions for tax purposes. Call Mack or his partner Danny Dollar at 384-3900 to start on the road to recovery

LANSING HARDWARE in Lansing has all your hardware needs. If you need a plumbing fixture or some electrical supplies drop by and see Dennis Trainor and he will be happy to assist you. Lansing Hardware also carries garden equipment and other material at competitive prices. Stop in or give them a call at 384-3630.

While in Lansing stop in at the **S & S DAIRY** for a tasty treat. Owned and operated by Tom Eldreth the S & S Dairy not only serves ice cream but they also have such fast food as hamburgers and hotdogs. For a quick refreshment stop by or give them a call at 384-4678.

Have you always wanted some lace curtains but did not like the price? Stop by **MAINSTREET DISCOUNT** in Lansing and see their bargains on curtains and much, much more. Owned and operated by Max Shupe, Mainstreet Discount has towels, crafts, clocks and practically anything else that you would desire. Stop by or call Max at 384-3945 and see for yourself.

If you need a good used car call on **DAVIS AUTO SALES** in Warrensville. Owner Ralph Davis specializes in quality late model used cars of all makes and models. If Ralph does not have the type of car you desire he will find it for you. Stop in or call Ralph at 384-3717, see the cars that he has available and let him make you a deal you cannot refuse.

LANSING VIDEO has the perfect movie to entertain you. Owned and operated by Tom and Tony Eldreth, Lansing Video has a complete line of movies for every taste. Whether you like comedy, drama or children's programs stop in and see their selection on the mainstreet in Lansing. If you wish to call ahead they can be reached at 384-2336.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

The following person has joined the Chamber on an individual membership.

Juanita A. Garvey

The Chamber sincerely appreciates all of our new members for the support they have given us.

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"Progress Through Action"

that according to the plan every unpaved secondary road which averages more than fifty vehicles per day will be paved within the next twelve years. This would greatly enhance the quality of life for all Ashe Countians especially those living on unpaved roads. Unfortunately Ashe County is not scheduled to receive a new primary road project. Nevertheless we at the Chamber see promise for an improved primary road system coming from this plan. It is hoped that Ashe County will be compensated for missing out on the primary portion of the Highway Plan with an increase in priority for the T.I.P. money available. One of the Chamber's goals for the next year is to increase our efforts to lobby Raleigh to achieve this. We began this effort on May 16 when Virginia Myers and Tim Carter went to the state capital to speak in favor of the Highway funding package. Although this was a step in the right direction, much more pressure will be needed to make sure Ashe County is not slighted as she sometimes has been in the past. If you are interested in helping Ashe County improve its transportation system the Chamber urges you to become involved in helping to lobby our state representatives and make them aware of our needs.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY FESTIVAL

The Ashe County Chamber of Commerce is proud to co-sponsor the Third annual "Christmas in July" Festival June 30-July 2 in West Jefferson. The festival hours will be Friday, 8:00 pm to midnight; Saturday, 9:00 am to midnight and Sunday 1:00 to 6:00 pm. This year's event will have over 200 vendors selling quality crafts and delicious food. Doc Watson will be per-

forming two shows on Saturday, 1:00 to 2:00 and 5:00 to 6:00. Crowds of over 45,000 are expected so make plans to join the Chamber in saluting our Christmas Tree Industry and have some great fun doing it. For more information call the Chamber at 246-9550.

DONATIONS

The Chamber would like to acknowledge two of our members who gave donations over the past month. Myrna S. Hakanson donated a lovely centerpiece that was awarded as a door prize at our annual meeting. Another member, Thomasville Furniture, has donated 2 beautiful Queen Anne Chairs for our office. These chairs have helped solve the Chamber's need for furniture; however, we are still in need of matching endtables. If you would like to support the Chamber with your tax deductible donation call us at 246-9550.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The following dates are the Chamber's scheduled meeting times for the year. All meetings are held at our office at #6 Jefferson Avenue. Director's attendance is mandatory but any member is allowed and encouraged to attend.

June 27	7:00 pm
August 22	7:00 pm
September 26	7:00 pm
October 24	7:00 pm
November 28	7:00 pm

ACTIVITY REPORT

The period from April 26 to May 22 saw the Chamber respond to the following inquiries:

Tourism	43
Festival Applications	50
Business Contacts	92

Credit Bureau Reports 74

Visitors 82

The number of visitors to the Chamber last May was 44. The increase of 38 speaks well for our new location in terms of accessibility.

SALES TAX REVENUE FIGURES

According to the N.C. Department of Revenue the following amounts were collected in Ashe County as a result of the State's retail sales tax.

Feb 88-Jan 89	Feb 87-Jan 88	% +
2,967,643	2,765,202	7.32

Gross Retail Sales:

Calendar Year 1988	128,185,050
Calendar Year 1987	119,156,532

MEDICAL CAR POOL

One of our members has brought to our attention that a number of Ashe residents commute to Winston Salem to receive cancer treatments. This member was interested in the possibility of a carpool to save expenses. Contact the Chamber at 246-9550 for more information.

COPIER FOR SALE

The Chamber is considering purchasing a new copier for our office. We have outgrown the current one we are using and we would like to offer it to the highest bidder. The copier is a Sharp model Z-55 that was purchased in 1987. It has the ability to copy in black, red, blue, brown and green. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this machine it is just that we are producing more paperwork than a personal copier can cope with. If you are interested in getting a good copier at a good price call the Chamber at 246-9550 and submit your bid.

...WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

The Chamber membership has grown by 12 new members for the month of May. This brings the total of new members for the year to 28 and a total paying membership of 229.

HARDEE'S FOOD SYSTEMS on Highway 16 and 88 serves all types of tasty food so you can quickly get on your way. Hardee's offers breakfast along with salads, chicken sandwiches, hamburgers and desserts. Call on Manager Pat Finley at 246-5504 and welcome her to the Chamber.

MT. JEFFERSON GENERAL STORE owned and operated by Amelia Burns has recently opened in our area. The Mt. Jefferson General Store is located on Highway 16 and 88 near the Highlander Motel. The store not only has antiques and crafts but herbs, farm implements and much more. Call Amelia at 246-5835 or stop by and welcome her to the area.

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE is a major force in Ashe County concerning the protection of our environment. This nonprofit organization has taken on such issues as opposition to a low level nuclear waste dump and protection of the New River. If you are interested in joining this organization call Janet Hoyle at 982-2691.

THE HAIR PALACE located in the Warrensville Mini-Mall is available to give you just the right hair style to fit your needs. Owned and operated by Shirley Eller, the Hair Palace is able to give you the latest cut at reasonable prices. Call Shirley at 384-3791 for an appointment and tell her you heard about it in the Chamber's newsletter.

SHEPHERD'S FLOWERS AND CRAFTS located on Highway 88 in Warrensville is more than just a florist shop. They offer a complete line of flowers and floral accessories but they also deliver balloons in the area. In addition Shepherd's Flowers and Crafts has beautiful hand

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